

Available online at www.sciencedirect.comSCIENCE  DIRECT®

Theoretical Computer Science 330 (2005) 1

Theoretical
Computer Science

www.elsevier.com/locate/tcs

Preface

With this special issue of “Theoretical Computer Science” we celebrate the 70th birthday of Arto Kustaa Salomaa (born in Turku, Finland on June 6, 1934), one of the most influential researchers in theoretical computer science, and one of the founding fathers of formal languages and automata theory.

His scientific career spans a period of 45 years—he has published his first paper in 1959, and he still continues to write and publish papers. As a matter of fact, he says that after his retirement in 1999 working on scientific problems and writing/publishing papers became even more pleasant, as it is done without the pressure of deadlines and other “nonscientific factors”.

He has influenced the development of theoretical computer science in many ways: through his papers, books, lectures, Master students, Ph.D. students, collaborators, and also through organizing many workshops and conferences, his many editorial functions, and by leading important scientific organizations (e.g., he is the past president of the European Association for Theoretical Computer Science).

All these activities and accomplishments earned him enormous respect of the scientific community. He is one of the most decorated computer scientists—e.g., he holds eight honorary degrees, and he also holds a very unique title of Academician in his native Finland (at any moment of time at most twelve scientists from all areas of science can hold this title).

He is also a devoted family man, and for us a unique mentor and friend (as a matter of fact more than a friend—a brother of choice). We feel really glad and honored that, as a token of our admiration, we could edit this special issue. This admiration is also shared by all the contributors to this issue (and many other scientists for whom there was simply not enough space to include). We want to thank all of them. Also, special thanks go to Kalle Saari for his help in getting this issue ready for production.

May 2004

Juhani Karhumäki^a
Grzegorz Rozenberg^b

^a*Department of Mathematics
University of Turku, Turku 20014, Finland*

^b*Leiden, The Netherlands*

E-mail address: karhumak@cs.utu.fi (J. Karhumäki)